LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A process for producing a golf ball comprising:

a first step wherein ~~a half shell is~~ generally hemispherical half shells are formed comprising a thermoplastic resin composition, the half shells having a ~~bowl-like shape, and having~~ a central part surrounded by a side part, the thickness of the ~~top~~ central part being less than the thickness of the side part;

a second step wherein ~~two pieces of said half shell and~~ a core covered by two of said half shells are placed into a mold comprising ~~an upper portion and a lower portion~~ confronting portions both of which having a ~~semi~~ hemispherical cavity, in ~~a state~~ an open state of said mold ~~opened~~;

a third step wherein said mold is clamped, bringing said confronting portions together to form a spherical cavity; and

a fourth step wherein a thermoplastic resin composition is compressed while being heated in the spherical cavity formed by the clamping, resulting in outflow of ~~the~~ excess thermoplastic resin composition from the spherical cavity that cannot be accommodated by the volume of the spherical cavity, to form a cover having the nominal thickness of 0.3 mm or greater and 1.0 mm or less with ~~remained~~ thermoplastic resin composition remaining in the spherical cavity.

2. (currently amended) The process for producing a golf ball according to claim 1 wherein the difference (Ts - Tt) between the thickness Ts of the side part and the thickness Tt of the ~~top~~ central part of the half ~~shell~~ shells formed in said first step is 0.02 mm or greater and 0.30 mm or less.

3. (original) The process for producing a golf ball according to claim 1 wherein the volume of the thermoplastic resin composition of the two half shells placed into said second step is set to be 105% or greater and 120% or less of the volume of the cover.

4. (original) The process for producing a golf ball according to claim 1 wherein said fourth step comprises a low pressurizing step in which the thermoplastic resin composition is compressed at a pressure of 5 kgf/cm^2 or greater and 75 kgf/cm^2 or less, and a high pressurizing step in which the thermoplastic resin composition is compressed at a pressure of 100 kgf/cm^2 or greater and 250 kgf/cm^2 or less.